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GERMANY.

*Reports from Berlin—Plague and cholera in various countries.*BERLIN, GERMANY, *March 20, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the following information obtained from the imperial health office (Kaiserliches Gesundheits Amt), at Berlin:

Plague.

EGYPT.—Between February 28 and March 6, there were registered 14 plague cases and 6 deaths, viz, in Tantah and Nahtai, each 3 cases, 2 deaths; in Kom-el-Nour, 8 cases, 2 deaths.

BRITISH INDIA.—From February 8 to February 14, there were recorded in the Bombay Presidency, 5,881 plague cases and 4,406 deaths—that is to say, considerably less than during the foregoing week. In the city of Bombay, during the week ended February 18, there were registered 778 plague cases and 663 deaths. In addition to which, 230 deaths were described as “suspected” plague.

JAPAN.—In Formosa, during the period from January 1 to January 21, there occurred 100 fresh plague cases, of which 80 ended in death. From January 15 to January 21, there were registered in the port of Tamsui alone, 13 plague cases, all ending in death. According to official statistics, the total number of cases of plague in 1901, amounted to 4,519, of which 3,634 terminated in death.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—In the Uganda Territory, which is under British protectorate, according to a telegraphic report of March 11, the plague has broken out among the Indian coolies and African natives.

Plague and cholera.

BRITISH INDIA.—Between February 2 and February 8, 50 persons died of cholera in Calcutta, and there were also recorded 143 cases of plague, with 124 deaths.

Respectfully,

FRANK H. MASON,
United States Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

An anthrax (milzbrand) infection by means of goat's hair.

[Translated from the German of Dr. L. Heim, professor and director of the Hygienic-Bacteriological Institute of the University of Erlangen.]

[Vol. XVIII.—Published by the Imperial Health Office, Berlin.]

BERLIN, GERMANY, *March 20, 1902.*

From the district physician in Dinkelsbühl, Dr. Federschmidt, I received on April 7 a piece of flesh, cut from the cheek of a 17-year-old girl, an employee in a brush factory. According to the report which followed, the girl first noticed a vesicle on April 1. On April 3 she was still at work in the factory, although the right cheek had already commenced to swell. The swelling then spread to the neck, and was accompanied by fever and pain, while at the place of infection there was a small eruption, the center of which was black, and a dull matter was oozing out. Temperature, 40° F.; pulse, 110. On April 4 an operation was made, the part affected being cut out.

The piece of flesh sent to Erlangen could not be examined immedi-

ately, as I happened to be absent in Berlin at the time. On April 9 I applied to the imperial health office at Berlin for permission to make the examination there, and I hereby express my sincere thanks to the deputy president, Dr. Röckl, and to Prof. H. Kossel, the head of the bacteriological department, for their kind reception in their laboratory.

On April 10 I received from the district officer in Dinkelsbühl a specimen of goat's hair with which the sick girl had worked.

1. *Examination of the piece of flesh of the patient.*

After the flesh had been cut up into several small parts, a small piece was inserted under the skin of a guinea pig, and two smaller pieces were used for experiments upon 2 white mice. The other pieces, after being laid upon gelatin and colored with Löffler's blue, were used for microscopic examination. An inspection revealed the presence of anthrax bacilli. The animals inoculated remained alive, although at the place of inoculation abscesses formed, in which were found large quantities of pus. On April 14 the diagnosis of anthrax was definitely made.

2. *Examination of the specimens of goat's hair.*

A handful of the goat hair from the factory in question was placed in bouillon. Subsequent experiments with cultures thus obtained demonstrated the presence of genuine anthrax bacilli. The result of these experiments was that it was decided to include goats' hair among the articles mentioned in section 1 of the law requiring the disinfection of certain materials imported for brush factories.

FRANK H. MASON,
United States Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

The spread of cancer in the German Empire.

[By government counsellor, Dr. Wutzdorff, of the imperial health office, Berlin.—
Synopsis translation.]

BERLIN, GERMANY, *March 24, 1902.*

The frequency of individual causes of death has in the course of time shown remarkable variations. Apart from the epidemic outbreak of certain diseases like plague and smallpox in former centuries, which claimed unnumbered thousands and even millions of victims, it has been mainly the hygienic—and latterly also the therapeutics measures which brought about such a great change. During the middle ages leprosy occurred so frequently in Europe, that in order to battle with it there existed at the beginning of the thirteenth century in France alone 2,000, in the whole of Christendom about 19,000 leper hospitals. Owing to the strict isolation of the patients, this disease has gradually almost entirely disappeared in Germany. The history of scurvy, which on account of the large number of victims claimed by it in former times, frustrated so many enterprises of the navy and the merchant marine, is also extremely instructive. In the case of this disease, too, it was principally due to hygienic measures that it became possible to keep the same within bounds. The most perceptible—because most rapid—improvement, however, wrought by the application of hygienic measures, was in the case of smallpox, which, according to the estimate of Juncker, claimed annually in Europe at the end of the eighteenth